19: Guérin and Bernard--564 [3] G-3 (ca. 1866) 1868 Formosan Aborigines
116, 439

Commerce, in the form of barter, plays a vital role among the Formosan tribes. From the Chinese they receive fire arms, gun powder and lead, knives, pottery sauce pans and jars, salt, rice, wine, cotton materials, wool stuffs (destined to be unraveled and mixed with native materials, to give them color and design), needles, thread, buttons, bells, copper, glass ornaments, ivory ornaments, money, etc. In return they furnish hemp, materials, rice paper, bear, leopard, and a great many deer skins, the tendons, feet and horns of deer, the fangs of the wild boar, venison, mushrooms, medicinal plants, kamatchi (a tubercle for dyeing), and above all, the right to exploit the neighboring forests or to cultivate the valleys and turn them into rice fields.

22: Wiedfeldt--38 F-5 (1913) 1914 Formosan Aborigines
116, 439 Atayal

The objects set with precious things [MC: used as money by the Atayal] are not used in trading either. After all, there is no trading, although it is customary for barter to develop between "savages" and civilized people. There can be none. The fact that there is no means of communication would not be an insuperable obstacle, but would only make things more difficult. The means of communication now in use, such as the fire signals of distress, or the sending of messengers,...are destined only for military and political purposes, and it seems improbable to me that the suspension bridges are made for any other purpose. There is, however, a lack of goods that might be used in barter. "Trade follows the flag", but very slowly, even in the case of a country well equipped for trade like Japan...It does not follow at all for "savage tribes", which have no need of the wares of civilized peoples, except for modern weapons to keep off the traders, and it has not been desired to sell them weapons. The exchange that has gone on up to now between the Atayal border-tribes and the Japanese traders has been very limited as to amount and variety of objects: bright-colored cloth, glass beads, rings, sake, and matches, for reeds, bamboo sprouts, and recently, hides. Such ornaments are more necessary to the Atayals than salt, pots, knives, and metal tips, which they get from the Chinese, who are not protected by any flag. The need of the Atayals for those baubles is just as small as the market which they offer to Japanese economy is unimportant.

22: Wiedfeldt--38-39 F-5 (1913) 1914 Formosan Aborigines
116, 439, 177.43 Japanese
636.43

What the Japanese really need is the valuable camphor trees which grow in Atayal territory. This important commodity is not bartered, however, and the Japanese control only the camphor trees inside the Aiyu line, pushing this line ahead as they feel the need. The tribes in the interior naturally do not share in this insignificant trade in trifles which has slowly developed in the border territories. Barter between tribes is just as impossible as barter between members of tribes, for all the Atayals produce the same things, and therefore have nothing to offer each other.[39] The Atayals and the Amis, who bound them on the south, hate each other mutually, and have nothing but hostile dealings with each other. Since the Japanese forbade the importation of guns and salt, a contraband barter in these two articles, which can hardly be dispensed with for purposes of defence and maintenance, is said to have developed in place of the former free gift of these things to the tribes of the interior, but no one knew anything about it, or if they did, they were unwilling to say anything about it.